

## **Clean and Clear Program Goals FY 2006**

### Anticipated Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets staff working on Water Quality for FY 2006

<u>Division</u>	<u>Employee #'s</u>
Agricultural Resource Management & Environmental Stewardship	11.20
Administration	0.95
<u>Conservation District (Ag. Resource Specialists Positions)</u>	<u>7.00</u>
<b>Total Employees</b>	<b>19.15</b>

### Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Alternative Manure Management

**Program Goal: To improve water quality by providing financial assistance for the construction of waste related farm structures.**

- Cost-share on seventy (70) BMP contracts, implementing 420 various practices
- Cost-share the design and construction of alternative waste management systems on two (2) Vermont farms

### Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

**Program Goal: To reduce agricultural non-point source pollution through the establishment of riparian buffers and to offset the financial loss accrued by the farmer through annual rental payments and upfront incentive payments.**

- \$931,126 remaining from prior allocations (see attached)
- Approximately 375 acres for \$206,500 in pending contracts to be signed this spring using FY 2005 dollars
- Anticipate spending \$747,450 in 2006 to enroll 930 acres statewide (see attached)
- Continue outreach and training, while increasing interests in areas with reduce enrollment and/or high environmental priority

### Integrated Crop Management (ICM)

**Program Goal: To assist farm compliance with regulatory programs by cost sharing on nutrient management plan development and implementation.**

- Distribute \$750,000 through cost-sharing to one hundred fifteen (115) farms to develop nutrient management plans on 63,000 acres

March 2005

Conservation District Assistants

**Program Goal: To provide technical assistance and Land Treatment Planning for Nutrient Management Plan development to the agricultural community.**

- Develop eighty-five (85) land treatment plans as a part of whole farm nutrient management plans
- Farm\*A\*Syst (Ground water pollution assessments and water testing for Nitrogen, E. Coli and Pesticides)
  - 25 New assessments with minimum of 50 water samples
  - 24 Follow up assessments with minimum of 48 water samples
- AAP and Agriculture water quality management assistance
  - 15 Farm/neighbor conflict resolutions
  - 15 Exemption requests investigations
  - 20 Manure stacking and composting assistance
  - 25 Manure management education and outreach

Water Quality Regulatory Program

**Program Goal: To develop and implement regulatory programs in order to reduce agricultural pollution and assure Vermont farm compliance with Federal environmental law.**

- Promulgate the Medium and Small Farm Operation Rules for Issuance of General and Individual Permits
- Adopt the General Permit for Medium Farm Operations
- Promulgate Redrafted Accepted Agricultural Practices (AAPs)
- Promulgate Revised Large Farm Operation Rules
- Medium Farm Operations Cost Assessment
  - Anticipated costs for Medium Farm Operations to achieve regulatory compliance with manure storages, roof runoff catchments, and silage runoff treatment (see attached)
    - Estimated maximum \$26,914,333
    - Estimated minimum \$16,491,533
- Position to help farmers comply with AAPs and develop nutrient management plans in Missisquoi and St. Albans Bay watersheds

March 2005

Agricultural Basin Planning Efforts

**Program Goal: To provide resource planning and assessment in order to develop agricultural component of Basin Plans.**

- Develop the agricultural chapter in four (4) Basin Plans in Vermont watersheds through contracted staff

Manure Pit Certification

**Program Goal: To assist farms with groundwater quality issues associated with uncertified waste management systems or nutrient management plans.**

- Address groundwater quality violations on five (5) Vermont farms
- Assist five (5) farms in gaining compliance with waste management certification requirements